

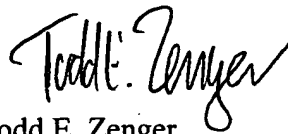
flow in contact with each other and in which at least a portion of the sulphur dioxide gas reacts with the water to form sulphurous acid, and means for discharging the sulphurous acid and any unreacted sulphur dioxide gas.

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 have been canceled. New claim 5 has been added. The applicant requests notice of allowance as soon as possible.

DATED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,



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